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6 **UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT**

7 **DISTRICT OF ARIZONA**

8 In re:

9 THORNWOOD FURNITURE  
MANUFACTURING, INCORPORATED,

10 Debtor.

No. 2-10-bk-17750-RJH

No. 2-10-bk-17754

(Jointly Administered)

CHAPTER 11

11  
12 In re:

13 ALBACORE HOLDINGS, L.L.C.,

14 Debtor.

**DECLARATION OF CRAIG THORN IN  
SUPPORT OF MOTION FOR ORDER  
AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING  
DEBTOR-IN-POSSESSION FINANCING  
AND TO USE FUNDS CLAIMED AS CASH  
COLLATERAL**

15  
16 CRAIG THORN declares as follows:

17 1. I am the President of Thornwood Furniture Manufacturing, Incorporated, and the  
18 managing member of Albacore Holdings, L.L.C. (collectively, the "**Debtors**"). I own 70% of the  
19 outstanding membership interests in Albacore. I am the 70% shareholder in Thornwood.

20 2. This Declaration is submitted in support of the factual allegations contained in the  
21 *Motion for Order Authorizing and Approving Debtor-In-Possession Financing on an Interim and Final*  
22 *Basis and to Use Funds Claimed as Cash Collateral* (the "**Motion**").<sup>1</sup>

23 3. As the controlling officer and majority owner of the Debtors, I am familiar with  
24 the Debtors' general business and financial affairs. The statements set forth herein are true and accurate

25  
26 <sup>1</sup> Capitalized terms used herein shall have the same meaning given to them in the Motion, unless otherwise defined herein.

1 to the best of my personal knowledge and if called to testify I would testify as stated herein.

2 4. Thornwood is one of the largest, nationally-recognized manufacturers of  
3 contemporary wood furniture in the United States. It operates from a 450,000 square foot state-of-the-  
4 art manufacturing and warehouse facility on a 22-acre campus near Sky Harbor International Airport in  
5 Phoenix, Arizona (the "**Property**"). Thornwood designs and manufactures furniture products both for  
6 the residential and commercial markets. Its residential products can be found nationwide in showrooms  
7 of well known furniture retailers.

8 5. Thornwood currently employs over 250 full and part-time employees.  
9 Thornwood began operating in 1987 with less than \$1 Million in sales and a mere handful of workers  
10 selling only furniture for the residential market. By 2004, however, Thornwood was generating \$60  
11 Million in annual sales, and employed a workforce of approximately 850 employees. In 2007,  
12 Thornwood expanded into the commercial furniture market. Since 2007, the Debtor has placed  
13 commercially designed furniture into established commercial businesses as well as into small and large  
14 scale commercial building projects.

15 6. Albacore owns and operates the Property upon which Thornwood conducts its  
16 manufacturing and sales operations. Other than owning the Property, Albacore does not have any  
17 operations. Scott Thorn, Jeff Woods, Bob Lubold and I are the owners and officers of the Debtors. The  
18 business operations of the Debtors, including cash management systems, control, and human resources  
19 are fully integrated. As set forth more fully below, M&I is the principal lender to each of the Debtors.

20 7. Until the recent economic down-turn, Thornwood had been a very profitable  
21 company. From 1996 through 2005, Thornwood had net operating income of \$34 Million dollars on  
22 sales of \$500 Million. Also during this time period, and through the Filing Date, the Debtors were and  
23 remain solvent enterprises.

24 8. The sudden and severe recession has caused Thornwood to re-evaluate its  
25 business models and strategies that had been so successful in the past. Like many businesses,  
26 Thornwood was simply caught off-guard by the housing market's sudden and rapid collapse. Since the

1 initial phases of the recession however, Thornwood has stabilized its business operations, and has  
2 developed new models and strategies to accommodate present and near future market conditions. These  
3 strategies include the following:

- 4 a. developing new residential product lines and aggressively placing them in  
5 the showrooms of both new and existing retail customers;
- 6 b. forming new retail distribution channels for its products;
- 7 c. expanding commercial business opportunities;
- 8 d. fostering relationships with local custom installation companies to sell  
9 kitchen cabinets to builders throughout Arizona; and
- 10 e. adding to its wholesale operations by entering into the retail furniture  
11 market by establishing "Maddies on Madison," a weekend-only factory  
12 furniture outlet situated on the Property in 50,000 square feet of  
13 warehouse space.

14 9. Furthermore, in keeping with the trend toward environmentally-friendly products,  
15 Thornwood has also developed the capability to produce "green" furniture made from core materials that  
16 contain no added formaldehyde, and that are Forestry Stewardship Counsel certified as coming from  
17 well-managed forests. Thornwood's "green" products appeal to both the "local manufacturing" and  
18 "American-made" movements that are currently popular with consumers.

19 10. M&I is the principal lender to each Debtor. On March 2, 2005, Albacore entered  
20 into two term notes (the "**Albacore Notes**") in favor of M&I; a fixed rate note in the original principal  
21 amount of \$7 Million, and a variable rate note in the original principal amount of \$3 Million. The  
22 Albacore fixed rate note has a present balance of about \$6,213,775, and the Albacore variable rate note  
23 has a present balance of about \$546,582. The combined Albacore debt is about \$6,760,357 (the  
24 "**Albacore Debt**"). The Albacore Notes matured on March 2, 2010.

25 11. In November 2008, Thornwood signed a revolving note in the original principal  
26 amount of \$7,000,000 (the "**Revolving Note**"), and a term note in the original principal amount of  
\$739,100.27 (the "**Term Note**", and with the Revolving Note, the "**2008 Thornwood Notes**" and with

1 the Albacore Notes, the "**Notes**"), both in favor of M&I as payee. The present balance on the Revolving  
2 Note is \$5,280,223, and the present balance on the Term Note is \$574,593. The combined Thornwood  
3 debt is about \$5,854,816 (the "**Thornwood Debt**"). The Thornwood Debt plus the Albacore Debt (the  
4 "**Indebtedness**") is about \$12.5 million.

5 12. Upon information and belief, M&I alleges that the Thornwood Debt and the  
6 Albacore Debt are cross-defaulted and cross-collateralized. Upon information and belief, M&I claims  
7 that it has a lien in all of the real property and personal property that the Debtors own, and that  
8 Thornwood cannot use the proceeds of its accounts receivable without its consent or the consent of this  
9 Court since M&I claims that these proceeds are its "cash collateral."

10 13. In January 2009, M&I conducted formal appraisals of the Property and the  
11 Business Collateral. According to M&I's appraisers, the Property had a fair market value of almost \$27  
12 Million, while the Business Collateral had a fair market value of approximately \$6.4 Million. The  
13 Debtors believe that the Indebtedness is about \$12.5 million. Accordingly, the \$12.5 Million  
14 Indebtedness is secured by \$33 Million in assets. In May 2010, I received notifications from  
15 Thornwood vendors and customers that M&I was attempting to auction the Notes and the related  
16 collateral. In the materials received by Thornwood vendors, customers and competitors soliciting bids  
17 for the Notes, M&I claimed that the Property had an "as is" value of \$21 Million.

18 14. The Debtors' ability to fulfill their working capital needs can be satisfied only if  
19 the Debtors are authorized to borrow under the DIP Financing and to use such proceeds, and cash  
20 collateral, to fund their operations. The credit provided under the DIP Financing will enable the Debtors  
21 to continue financing their operations, pay their employees, vendors, and suppliers, and operate their  
22 businesses in an orderly and reasonable manner to preserve and enhance the value of their assets and  
23 enterprise for the benefit of all parties-in-interest.

24 15. Moreover, the availability of credit under the DIP Financing and the use of cash  
25 collateral will provide employees, vendors, suppliers, and other parties with confidence in the Debtors  
26 that will enable and encourage them to resume ongoing credit relationships with the Debtors. The DIP

1 Financing will enable the Debtors to make-up any cash shortfall during the bankruptcy cases as the  
2 Debtors' revenues and expenses likely will fluctuate each month during the pendency of these cases.

3           16. Before filing these bankruptcy cases, the Debtors sought financing from a variety  
4 of sources. Lenders willing to make new loans on commercial real estate in Arizona during the last few  
5 years have been few. Given the pervasive disruptions in the credit markets, financing from traditional  
6 lenders was simply not available to the Debtors. Financing from non-traditional lenders was easier to  
7 locate but the terms and conditions they imposed on the loans they offered were unacceptable or  
8 unaffordable. The DIP Lender was the only source of reasonable financing available to the Debtors.

9           17. The Debtors have engaged in significant efforts during the past two years to  
10 locate financing, and have concluded in their sound business judgment that the DIP Financing is  
11 absolutely necessary to sustain operations and to preserve their assets. The Debtors have exercised  
12 sound business judgment in determining that the DIP Financing is appropriate. The Debtors believe that  
13 the proposed terms of the DIP Financing are fair, reasonable, and adequate and do not transfer any  
14 substantial control over the Debtors' bankruptcy cases to the DIP Lender, which had no relationship  
15 prior to the Debtors. The various fees and charges required by the DIP Lenders under the DIP Financing  
16 are reasonable and appropriate under the circumstances.

17           18. I am informed that M&I will claim the revenue generated by the Debtors post-  
18 petition as its cash collateral. To date, M&I has not consented to the use of its purported cash collateral.  
19 As such, the Debtors request authority from this Court to use the cash collateral to pay critical expenses  
20 such as payroll, taxes, the purchase of goods, materials, and services, and to pay other reasonable  
21 expenses as they arise in the ordinary course of business. Without that consent, the Debtors will be  
22 unable to operate, and will be forced to liquidate its assets, which will cause the Debtors' 250 employees  
23 to lose their jobs.

24           19. The Debtors require the DIP Financing and use of cash collateral to fund their  
25 operations during the Budget period and thereafter. Having an assured cash flow from these sources  
26 will allow the Debtors to provide assurances to its various constituencies that they can pay their

1 obligations on a going forward basis, and will ultimately permit the Debtors to maximize the value of  
2 their assets for the benefit of all concerned, including M&I. Allowing the Debtors to incur the DIP  
3 Financing and use cash collateral will promote the filing and ultimate confirmation of a plan of  
4 reorganization that will pay all creditors, including M&I, in full.

5 I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my  
6 knowledge and belief.

7 Dated: June 9th, 2010.

8 /s/ CRAIG THORN

9 Craig Thorn

10 COPIES of the foregoing  
11 e-mailed this 9<sup>th</sup> day  
of June, 2010 to:

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21  
22 /s/ JULIE LARSEN

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